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PREFACE.

In bringing before the Public the First Number of *The Cambridge Mathematical Journal*, it will naturally be expected that we should say a few words, in the way of preface, on the objects we have in view, and the means we intend to adopt for carrying them into effect.

It has been a subject of regret with many persons, that no proper channel existed, either in this University or elsewhere in this country, for the publication of papers on Mathematical subjects, which did not appear to be of sufficient importance to be inserted in the Transactions of any of the Scientific Societies; the two Philosophical Journals which do exist having their pages generally devoted to physical subjects. In this place in particular, where the Mathematics are so generally cultivated, it might be expected that there would be an opening for a work exclusively devoted to that science, which does not command much interest in the world at large. We think that there can be no doubt that there are many persons here who are both able and willing to communicate much valuable matter to a Mathematical periodical, while the very existence of such a work is likely to draw out others, and make them direct their attention in some degree to original research. Our primary object, then, is to supply a means of publication for original papers.

But we conceive that our journal may likewise be rendered useful in another way—by publishing abstracts of important and interesting papers that have appeared in the memoirs of foreign academies, and in works not easily accessible to the generality of students. We hope in this way to keep our readers, as it were, on a level with the progressive state of Mathematical science, and so lead them to feel a greater interest in the study of it. For this purpose we

shall spare no pains in selecting the most useful and important papers from which to take abstracts for the benefit of our readers, while we shall put them in such a form as to make them available in the studies of this place. At the same time, we shall endeavour always to have such a variety of subjects treated of, that all classes of students may find in our journal something which may be useful to them.

Our intention is to publish only one Number in each term, which for many reasons we think preferable to a more frequent appearance. Those gentlemen who intend to favour us with their communications, are requested to send them, addressed to the Editors of the Journal, to our publisher, Mr. E. Johnson, Trinity Street.

Trinity College, Oct. 1837.